



CITY OF BELFAST

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131 Church Street
Maine 04915

Thomas Kittredge
Economic Development Director

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Fax: (207) 338-6222

March 7, 2014

Re: FCC Connect America Fund - Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest – FCC WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Belfast wishes to submit an expression of interest regarding Rural Broadband Experiments for the Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund. Below is the information that was requested to be included in an expression of interest, as described in FCC WC Docket No. 10-90:

1) The nature of the submitting entity or entities (e.g., incumbent LEC, municipality, utility, cable operator, wireless provider):

The City of Belfast, a municipality in the State of Maine, is the submitting entity. Belfast (population 6,668) serves as the governmental seat and service center for Waldo County.

Internet is currently available in Belfast through three distinct technologies: cable/DSL (via FairPoint Communications, Time Warner Cable, and GWI); satellite (via HughesNet); and radio wave (via Bluestreak and Midcoast Internet Solutions). There are limiting factors on all three of these technologies such as weather, topography, and the age of the delivery equipment used. Belfast, like many other municipalities in Maine, is dependent on private companies upgrading and improving their technology regularly to keep pace with communication in the 21st century.

Belfast, a city that has been severely challenged economically during most of its recent history, recognizes that it (and the midcoast region of Maine) can be an attractive location for several types of businesses and groups of people (such as 'New Economy' businesses, knowledge-based workers, and entrepreneurs), but without enhanced broadband infrastructure, Belfast will not be able to seize on what may be a great opportunity for future significant economic development. This proposal, if accepted, will allow this community to take some measure of control in the provision of this vital service, and smaller, local companies will have an opportunity to provide this service.

2) Identification of the proposed service area for the experiment, including census block number, with any relevant information regarding the number of locations that could be served, including schools, libraries, and other anchor institutions:

The proposed service area for the experiment is the entirety of the City of Belfast (census tract 23027043000; a listing of Belfast's 281 census blocks and a census block map follow); however this project has the potential to be expanded to the remainder of Waldo County (an area which also includes census tracts 23027041000, 23027042000, 23027044000, 23027045000, 23027046001, 23027046002, and 23027047000).

There exist at least 21 locations in Belfast that could be served by this project, which include the following schools, libraries, and other anchor institutions: Belfast Airport Business Park; Belfast Area High School; Belfast Free Library; Belfast Municipal Airport; Captain Albert W. Stevens School; City of Belfast City Hall; City of Belfast Police Department; City of Belfast Public Works Facility; East Belfast School; Maine District Court; Troy Howard Middle School; University of Maine Hutchinson Center; United States Coast Guard Marine Safety; Waldo County

Commissioners Office; Waldo County Emergency Management Agency; Waldo County General Hospital; Waldo County Regional Communications Center; Waldo County Sheriff's Office; Waldo County Superior Court; Waldo County Technical Center; and the Waterfront-Downtown District.

3) The broadband technology or technologies to be deployed:

The aforementioned schools, libraries, and other anchor institutions will be connected to the "Three Ring Binder," a dark fiber, open access network constructed in 2009 that is available to all service providers across the state and which is bringing broadband access to regions of the state where such infrastructure did not previously exist; this will be done using pole-mounted fiber optic cable. Approximately 30 miles of fiber will be deployed along city streets and will be available to small telecommunications companies that are local to Belfast to connect users to the system. In addition, approximately 18 miles of fiber will be deployed to vantage points such as water towers and hilltops so that wireless internet can be broadcast to the more rural areas of Belfast (and in the future, other parts of Waldo County) that are currently not served by cable and have little or no access to broadband; this broadcasting can also be done by local companies.

4) Contemplated service offerings (e.g., description of voice service, broadband speed tiers, nature of video service, if any) and pricing of such offerings:

Fiber connections allow users to access the internet at speeds that facilitate not only normal browsing but also VPN (virtual private networks), VOIP (voice over internet protocol), video transfer, and large data format transfer. Local providers can utilize local exchange telephone numbers. The speed of the connection would range up to 1 Gbps; the price for the service would dependent upon the speed desired, but a typical user would be expected to pay \$80 to \$100 per month.

The connection speed for the tertiary system that will be broadcast wirelessly to the rural sections of Belfast (and in the future, Waldo County) will be more variable depending on topography, distance, and tree cover; it could be expected to range from 5 Mbps to 20 Mbps. The cost for this service would be expected to range from \$40 to \$60 per month.

5) If known, expected State and/or local or Tribal governmental participation in and/or support for the project (e.g., expedited permitting, access to rights of way, matching funds, etc.):

The City of Belfast may wish to provide financial support to this project, but is uncertain of the exact amount at this time. Funds from the City's Downtown-Waterfront Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district may be utilized to support the portions of the project to be installed in the City's downtown core area.

6) Whether the proposal is expected to require one-time or continuing funding and a high-level estimate of the amount of funding requested:

One-time funding in the amount of \$1,180,000 is being requested for this project at this time. Approximately \$750,000 is requested to connect the aforementioned schools, libraries, and anchor institutions to the Three Ring Binder using approximately 30 miles of pole-mounted fiber optic cable; the remaining \$430,000 is for the extension of 18 miles of fiber optic cable to vantage points for wireless transmitter connection.

We are very excited here at the City of Belfast about the opportunity of being able to expand broadband service throughout our community to facilitate economic development. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning our expression of interest. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kittredge
Economic Development Director, City of Belfast



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Block Group 043000-1

Basic Information

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[Income and Careers](#)

[Housing](#)

Census Tract 043000

Belfast, ME

Waldo County

Maine State

Census Block Group 043000-1 in Waldo County, Maine

Basic Information Population and Races Income and Careers Housing

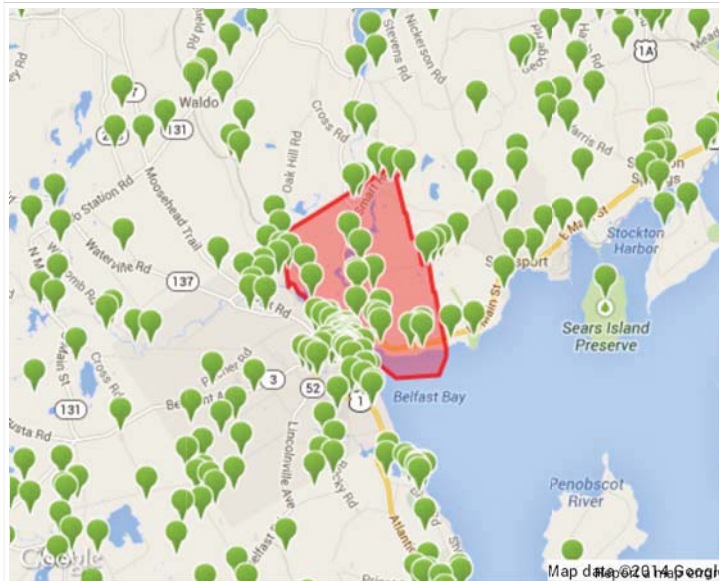
Population	1,604 (2010), see rank
House Units	793, see rank
Race	Whites:97%, Hispanics:1%, Blacks:0.4%, Asians:0.3%, Others:2.3%
Population Density:	137.80/sq mi, see rank
Median Household Income:	\$33,962, see rank
Median House Price:	\$116,800, see rank
Time Zone:	Eastern GMT -5:00 with Daylight Saving in the Summer
Land Area:	10.24 sq mi, see rank
Water Area:	1.40 sq mi (12.07%), see rank
State:	Maine
County:	Waldo County
City:	Belfast
Census Tract:	043000
School District:	Regional School Unit 20 ★★☆☆☆

Hot Rankings

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[Population Ranking Nearby](#)
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[High](#) / [Low](#) ME Cities by Males Employed
[High](#) / [Low](#) ME Cities by Females Employed
[Best](#) / [Worst](#) Cities by Crime Rate in ME
[Richest](#) / [Poorest](#) Cities by Income in ME
[Expensive](#) / [Cheapest](#) Homes by City in ME
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Block Group 043000-1 Map, Border, and Nearby Locations

Census Blocks Map View. **Partial data.** Zoom in to see more. Click icon to show name.



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* Census Blocks, Census Block Groups, and Census Tracts are geo areas that are normally smaller than the size of a city. Census Blocks provide block and community level information. They are great for understanding areas within a city.

Block Group 043000-1 Blocks

ME0270430001000 Belfast	ME0270430001001 Belfast	ME0270430001002 Belfast
ME0270430001003 Belfast	ME0270430001004 Belfast	ME0270430001005 Belfast
ME0270430001006 Belfast	ME0270430001008 Belfast	ME0270430001011 Belfast
ME0270430001012 Belfast	ME0270430001013 Belfast	ME0270430001014 Belfast
ME0270430001016 Belfast	ME0270430001017 Belfast	ME0270430001018 Belfast
ME0270430001019 Belfast	ME0270430001020 Belfast	ME0270430001021 Belfast
ME0270430001022 Belfast	ME0270430001023 Belfast	ME0270430001024 Belfast
ME0270430001025 Belfast	ME0270430001026 Belfast	ME0270430001027 Belfast
ME0270430001028 Belfast	ME0270430001029 Belfast	ME0270430001030 Belfast
ME0270430001031 Belfast	ME0270430001032 Belfast	ME0270430001033 Belfast
ME0270430001035 Belfast	ME0270430001036 Belfast	ME0270430001037 Belfast
ME0270430001038 Belfast	ME0270430001039 Belfast	ME0270430001040 Belfast
ME0270430001041 Belfast	ME0270430001042 Belfast	ME0270430001043 Belfast
ME0270430001044 Belfast	ME0270430001045 Belfast	ME0270430001046 Belfast
ME0270430001047 Belfast	ME0270430001048 Belfast	ME0270430001049 Belfast
ME0270430001050 Belfast	ME0270430001051 Belfast	ME0270430001052 Belfast
ME0270430001053 Belfast	ME0270430001054 Belfast	ME0270430001055 Belfast
ME0270430001057 Belfast	ME0270430001058 Belfast	ME0270430001059 Belfast
ME0270430001060 Belfast	ME0270430001061 Belfast	ME0270430001062 Belfast

[ME0270430001063](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001068](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001071](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001074](#) Belfast

[ME0270430001064](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001069](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001072](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001075](#) Belfast

[ME0270430001067](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001070](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001073](#) Belfast
[ME0270430001076](#) Belfast

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Block Group 043000-2

Basic Information

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[Income and Careers](#)

[Housing](#)

Census Tract 043000

Belfast, ME

Waldo County

Maine State

Census Block Group 043000-2 in Waldo County, Maine

Basic Information Population and Races Income and Careers Housing

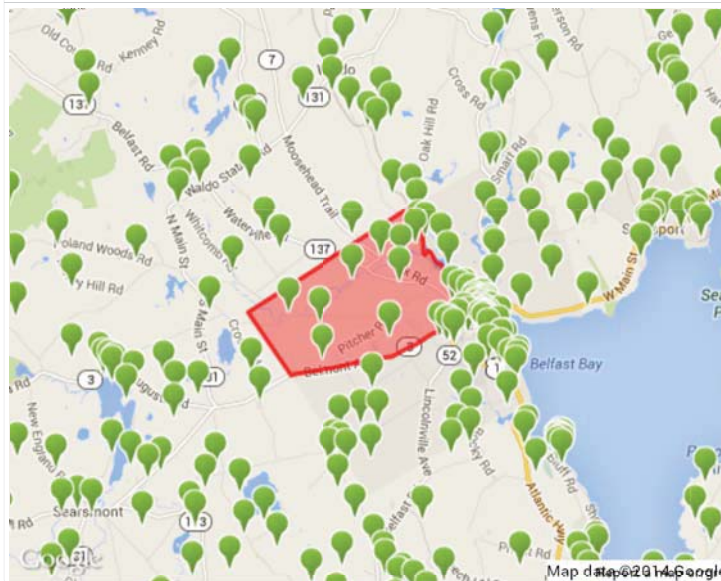
Population	1,376 (2010) , see rank
House Units	680 , see rank
Race	Whites:96.9% , Hispanics:1.2% , Blacks:1.1% , Asians:0.1% , Others:2%
Population Density:	122.36/sq mi , see rank
Median Household Income:	\$32,222 , see rank
Median House Price:	\$146,300 , see rank
Time Zone:	Eastern GMT -5:00 with Daylight Saving in the Summer
Land Area:	11.10 sq mi, see rank
Water Area:	0.15 sq mi (1.34%), see rank
State:	Maine
County:	Waldo County
City:	Belfast
Census Tract:	043000
School District:	Regional School Unit 20 ★★☆☆☆

Hot Rankings

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[High](#) / [Low](#) ME Cities by Females Employed
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Block Group 043000-2 Map, Border, and Nearby Locations

Census Blocks Map View. **Partial** data. Zoom in to see more. Click icon to show name.



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Block Group 043000-2 Blocks

[ME0270430002000](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002003](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002006](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002009](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002012](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002015](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002018](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002022](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002026](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002031](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002034](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002037](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002040](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002043](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002046](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002049](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002052](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002055](#) Belfast

[ME0270430002001](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002004](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002007](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002010](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002013](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002016](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002019](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002024](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002027](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002032](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002035](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002038](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002041](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002044](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002047](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002050](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002053](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002056](#) Belfast

[ME0270430002002](#) Belfast
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[ME0270430002008](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002011](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002014](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002017](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002020](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002025](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002030](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002033](#) Belfast
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[ME0270430002039](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002042](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002045](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002048](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002051](#) Belfast
[ME0270430002054](#) Belfast

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Block Group 043000-3

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Census Tract 043000

Belfast, ME

Waldo County

Maine State

Census Block Group 043000-3 in Waldo County, Maine

Basic Information Population and Races Income and Careers Housing

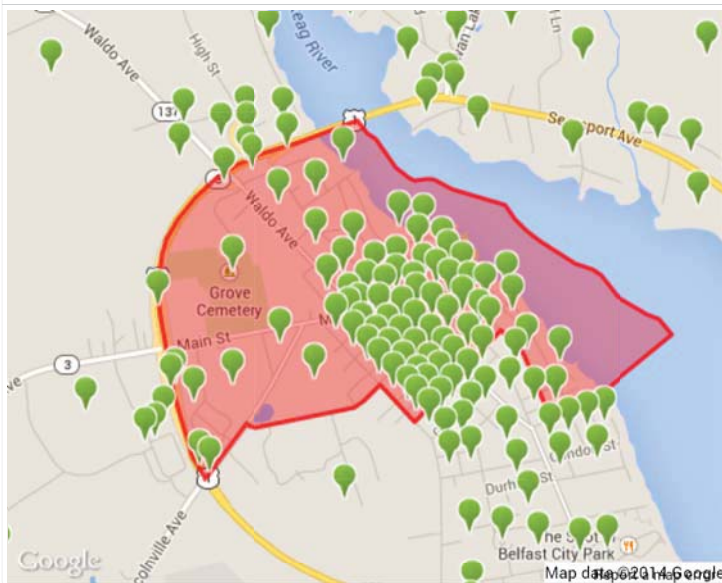
Population	1,250 (2010), see rank
House Units	800, see rank
Race	Whites:94.8%, Hispanics:2%, Blacks:0.7%, Asians:0.8%, Others:3.7%
Population Density:	1,423.99/sq mi, see rank
Median Household Income:	\$33,446, see rank
Median House Price:	\$246,600, see rank
Time Zone:	Eastern GMT -5:00 with Daylight Saving in the Summer
Land Area:	0.69 sq mi, see rank
Water Area:	0.19 sq mi (21.65%), see rank
State:	Maine
County:	Waldo County
City:	Belfast
Census Tract:	043000
School District:	Regional School Unit 20 ★★☆☆☆

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Block Group 043000-3 Blocks

[ME0270430003003](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003006](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003009](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003012](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003015](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003018](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003021](#) Belfast
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[ME0270430003077](#) Belfast

[ME0270430003063](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003066](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003069](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003072](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003075](#) Belfast
[ME0270430003078](#) Belfast

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Block Group 043000-4

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Census Tract 043000

Belfast, ME

Waldo County

Maine State

Census Block Group 043000-4 in Waldo County, Maine

Basic Information Population and Races Income and Careers Housing

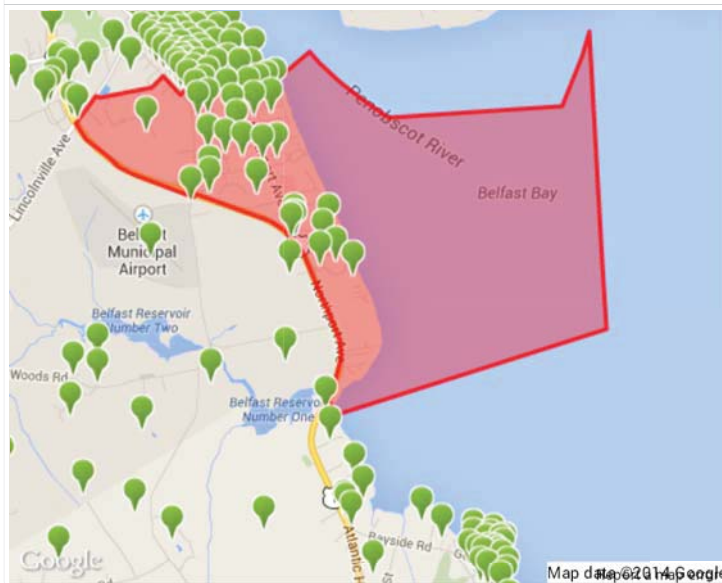
Population	1,442 (2010) , see rank
House Units	870 , see rank
Race	Whites:97.8% , Hispanics:0.8% , Blacks:0% , Asians:0.3% , Others:1.9%
Population Density:	398.89/sq mi , see rank
Median Household Income:	\$36,042 , see rank
Median House Price:	\$246,200 , see rank
Time Zone:	Eastern GMT -5:00 with Daylight Saving in the Summer
Land Area:	1.14 sq mi, see rank
Water Area:	2.48 sq mi (68.60%), see rank
State:	Maine
County:	Waldo County
City:	Belfast
Census Tract:	043000
School District:	Regional School Unit 20 ★★☆☆☆☆

Hot Rankings

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[Population Ranking Nearby](#)
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[Richest](#) / [Poorest](#) Cities by Income in ME
[Expensive](#) / [Cheapest](#) Homes by City in ME
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Block Group 043000-4 Map, Border, and Nearby Locations

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Block Group 043000-4 Blocks

[ME0270430004002](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004005](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004008](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004011](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004014](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004017](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004020](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004023](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004026](#) Belfast
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[ME0270430004043](#) Belfast

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[ME0270430004006](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004009](#) Belfast
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[ME0270430004041](#) Belfast

[ME0270430004004](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004007](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004010](#) Belfast
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[ME0270430004031](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004034](#) Belfast
[ME0270430004037](#) Belfast
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than 70% coverage of demographic data for cities and zip codes. Therefore census block groups and the census tracts are an excellent way to understand locations in a smaller scale, for example understanding the different areas of a large city. Census block groups are smaller than census tracts and can be further divided into census blocks for understanding locations at the block and community level.

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Local Data Search

Search State, County, City, Zip Code, or Area Code

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Block Group 043000-5

Basic Information

[Population and Races](#)

[Income and Careers](#)

[Housing](#)

Census Tract 043000

Belfast, ME

Waldo County

Maine State

Census Block Group 043000-5 in Waldo County, Maine

Basic Information Population and Races Income and Careers Housing

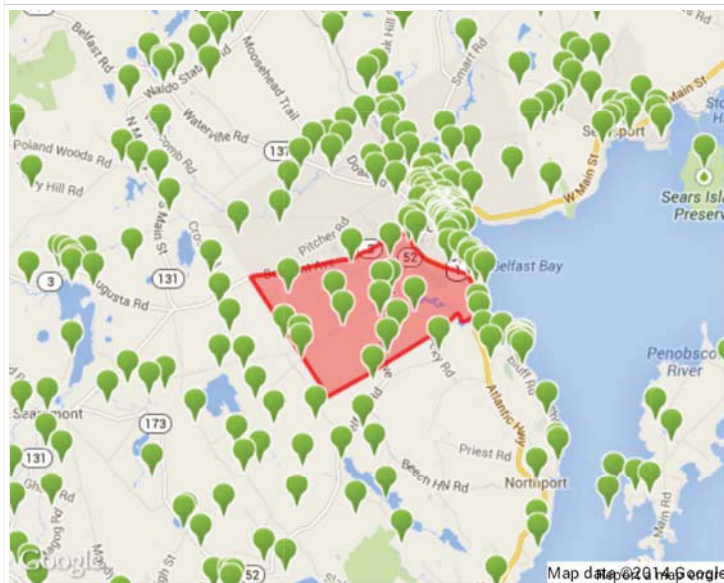
Population	996 (2010), see rank
House Units	439, see rank
Race	Whites:96.9%, Hispanics:0.9%, Blacks:0.2%, Asians:0.5%, Others:2.4%
Population Density:	90.65/sq mi, see rank
Median Household Income:	\$44,688, see rank
Median House Price:	\$132,600, see rank
Time Zone:	Eastern GMT -5:00 with Daylight Saving in the Summer
Land Area:	10.89 sq mi, see rank
Water Area:	0.10 sq mi (0.92%), see rank
State:	Maine
County:	Waldo County
City:	Belfast
Census Tract:	043000
School District:	Regional School Unit 20 ★★☆☆☆

Hot Rankings

[The Richest Block Group Nearby](#)
[House Price Ranking Nearby](#)
[Population Ranking Nearby](#)
[Fastest](#) / [Slowest](#) Growing Cities in ME
[High](#) / [Low](#) ME Cities by Males Employed
[High](#) / [Low](#) ME Cities by Females Employed
[Best](#) / [Worst](#) Cities by Crime Rate in ME
[Richest](#) / [Poorest](#) Cities by Income in ME
[Expensive](#) / [Cheapest](#) Homes by City in ME
[Most](#) / [Least](#) Educated Cities in ME

Block Group 043000-5 Map, Border, and Nearby Locations

Census Blocks Map View. **Partial** data. Zoom in to see more. Click icon to show name.



Show More Locations on the Map

Census Blocks*
[Census Block Groups*](#)
[Census Tracts*](#)
[Zip Codes](#)
[School Districts](#)
[Cities](#)
[Counties](#)
[Metro Areas](#)
[States](#)

+ If the color of the links above is gray, please zoom in on the map to see the data.

* Census Blocks, Census Block Groups, and Census Tracts are geo areas that are normally smaller than the size of a city. Census Blocks provide block and community level information. They are great for understanding areas within a city.

Block Group 043000-5 Blocks

[ME0270430005000](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005003](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005006](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005009](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005012](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005015](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005018](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005021](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005024](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005027](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005030](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005033](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005036](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005040](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005043](#) Belfast

[ME0270430005001](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005004](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005007](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005010](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005013](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005016](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005019](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005022](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005025](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005028](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005031](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005034](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005038](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005041](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005045](#) Belfast

[ME0270430005002](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005005](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005008](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005011](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005014](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005017](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005020](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005023](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005026](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005029](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005032](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005035](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005039](#) Belfast
[ME0270430005042](#) Belfast

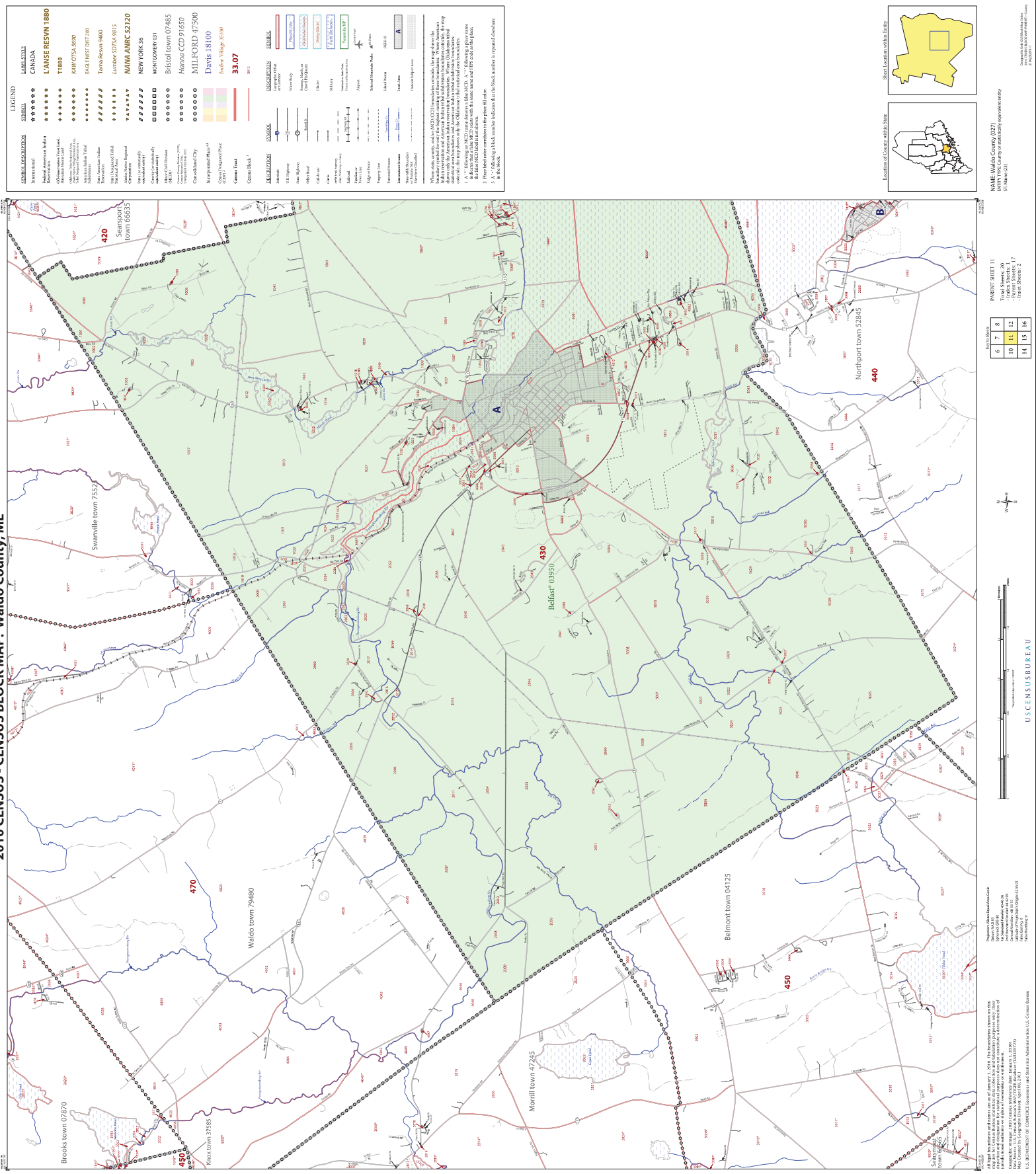
*A census block group is a geographic area defined by the United States Census Bureau and used for the census. On average, a census block group has around 1,500 residents. Census block groups, as well as census tracts, are more uniformly distributed in terms of the number

of residents than cities or zip codes. Also, the census block group and the census tract demographic data are nearly 100% complete vs. less than 70% coverage of demographic data for cities and zip codes. Therefore census block groups and the census tracts are an excellent way to understand locations in a smaller scale, for example understanding the different areas of a large city. Census block groups are smaller than census tracts and can be further divided into census blocks for understanding locations at the block and community level.

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